

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 14969 111329Z

44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 PC-01 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /064 W  
----- 089335

R 111001Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2165

INFO , AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 7887

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 14969

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PK, IN

SUBJECT: INDIA-PAK RELATIONS

REF: ISLAMABAD 10366

1. ON HIS RETURN FROM KABUL/TEHRAN/ABU DHABI NOV. 8, FONMIN CHAVAN TOLD THE PRESS THAT ALL COUNTRIES HE HAD VISITED WERE INTERESTED IN INDIA AND PAKISTAN IMPROVING THEIR RELATIONS BUT THAT HE HAD EXPLAINED TO THE LEADERS HE HAD SEEN THAT INDIAN INITIATIVES IN THIS DIRECTION RECEIVED ONLY "HALTING RQPHONSE" FROM PAKISTAN. HE SAID THAT WHILE INDIA WAS GOING TO WORK "PATIENTLY AND WITH DETERMINATION" TOWARD NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS, HE HAD NO PROGRAMME IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE TO MEET WITH PAKISTAN FONMIN AZIZ AHMED.

2. POLCOUNSELOR MET WITH MEA JOINT SECRETARY (PAKISTAN) CHIB NOV. 11 TO PURSUE THE ASSESSMENT BY THE FONMIN. POLCOUNSELOR TOLD CHIB IT WAS OUR CLEAR UNDERSTANDING FROM THE GOP THAT A NEW PROPOSAL ON CIVIL AVIATION HAD BEEN PUT TO THE GOI AND THAT THE GOP WAS WAITING WITH SOME ANTICIPATION THEVINDIAN RESPONSE. WITH EVERY APPARENT EVIDENCE OF MYSTIFICATION AND SURPRISE, CHIB  
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PAGE 02 NEW DE 14969 111329Z

RESPONDED THAT HE WAS AWARE OF NO NEW PAKISTANI PROPOSAL ON CIVIL

AVIATION TALKS, THAT THE GOI WAS NOT PREPARING ANY NEW RESPONSE TO THE GOP, AND THAT HE WAS AT A LOSS TO UNDERSTAND WITH THE PAKISTANIS MIGHT BE REFERRING TO.

3. INDEED, CHIB SAID, VIRTUALLY ACROSS THE BOARD INDO-PAKISTANI RELATIONS WERE ESSENTIALLY QUIET, ASIDE FROM AN INDIAN STATE TRADING OPORSWION (STC) DELEGATION VISITING PAKISTAN PROBABLY IN DECEMBER (DELAYED FROM NOVCMBER BY THE INDIAN STC CHAIRMAN HAVING RECENTLY FALLEN INTO AN ELEVATOR SHAFT IN LONDON), TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE PAKISTANI PURCHASES FROM INDIA (THE TRADE BALANCE THIS YEAR CONSISTS OF RS 250 MILLION IN INDIAN PURPOSES FROM PAKISTAN AND ONLY 4S 5 MILLION PAKISTANI IMPORTS FROM INDIA). THE SALAKVL DAM REPORTS OF EACH SIDE HAD BEENIUBMITTED TO THE RESPECTIVE FOREIGN SECRETARIES AND THE NEXT STEP WOULD BE EITHER A MEETING OF FOREIGN SECRETARIES (WHICH CHIB DID NOT SEE IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE) OR A DIRECT REFERRAL OF THE DISPUTE TO ARBITRATION UNDER THE INDUS WATERS TREATY. BUT OTHERWISE, NOTHING.

4. CHIB OFFERED HISTIEW THAT THE GOP (I.E., BHUTTO) WAS NOT LIKELY TO TAKE ACTIVE MEASURES AT THIS TIME TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH INDIA BECAUSE OF PROCCUPATION WITH DOMESTIC PROBLEMS. A RELATIVELY HARD LINE, CHIB THOUGHT, WOULD PROBABLY SET VRRHUTTO'S PURPOSES FOR A WHILE UNTIL HE RESOLVED HIS POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES IN THE PUNJAB (WHICH CHIB THOUGHT HE WOULD BE ABLE TO DO). CHEB ADDED THAT THIS MADE POLCOUNSELOR'S COMMENT ON A NEW GOPBJDNI-TIATIVE ON CIVIL AVIATION EVEN MORE SURPRISING TO HIM. HE OFFERED NO COMMENT ON PAKIST(S VIEW OF BANGLADESH DEVELOPMENTS OTHER THAN TO OBERVE THAT THE GOP WOULD PROBABLY WELCOMO DSMILITARY-DOMINATED GOVERNMENT IN DACCA.

5. COMMENT: WE ARE AT A LOSS TO EXPLAIN THE TOTAL DIVERGENCE BETWEEN CHIB'S COMMENTS AND THE INFO REPORTED IN ISLAMABAD 10366 AND 9940. CONCEIVABLY, CHIB IS BEING DISINGENOUS, BUT HE LOOKED SINCERELY PUZZLED. CONCEIABLY, THE INDIAN UN MISSION MIGHT HAVE FAILED TO PASS ALONG THE GOP INITIATIVE, BUT THIS ALSO SEEMS HARD TO ZI NIEVE. POSSIBLY THE UN MISSION DID SEND IT ALONG, BUT DES-CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 NEW DE 14969 111329Z

PXCBED THE PAK PROPOSAL IN TERMS WHICH MADE IT APPEAR INDISTIN-

GUISHABLE FROM EARLIER GOP PROPOSALS WHICH THE INDIAUM HAD FOUND UNACIDPTABLE. CHIB SAID THAT HE WOULD HDIF INTO WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE PAKS IN THE LAST WEEK OR SO TO SEE IF A NEW PROPOSAL HAD SOMEHOW SLIPPED BY HIM  
SAXBE

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